



New curbs on S. Africa protests: p. 3

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Rampage after West Bank incident

Petrol bomber kills settler

By JOEL GREENBERG
Hundreds of angry rioters converged on the West Bank town of Kalkiya last night after a woman from the neighbouring settlement of Alfei Menashe was burnt to death by a petrol bomb thrown at her vehicle. The rioters set fire to fields and smashed windows.

The family of bomb victim Ofra Moses, who died on the spot, was travelling from Alfei Menashe to Petah Tikva when the bomb was thrown at the vehicle at about 7 p.m. near the village of Habbat, police said. Her husband Avraham was critically wounded and four children suffered medium to serious burns after the fire bomb hit the family's car. The passengers were caught in the car when it burst into flames. They were treated by

ambulance crews from Ariel and Alfei Menashe before being taken to hospital.

Hundreds of Jews who arrived at Kalkiya in dozens of vehicles late last night reportedly set fields, orchards and vehicles ablaze. They smashed windows at the home of the mayor of Kalkiya and in other houses. The army declared the town a closed military zone after having previously imposed a curfew on West Kalkiya and Habbat.

Security forces were reportedly outnumbered by the rioters and unable to restore order.

Late last night troops were manning six roadblocks and a command centre had been set up, overseen by Chief of General Staff Moshe Levy and senior officers.

The head of the local council of

the neighbouring settlement's Ariel, Ron Nahman last night demanded that Defence Minister Rabin and Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev act to apprehend the firebombers. He called for beefed up Border Police patrols in the area.

The head of the Judea and Samaria Settlements Council, Osnid Shulster, said Rabin should consider stone-throwing and hurling petrol bombs serious attacks, whose perpetrators should be severely punished.

On Friday, some 70 armed settlers in 20 vehicles drove through el-Bireh and parked near the al-Amari refugee camp before they were ordered out of the area by a military commander, police said. The action came a day after more than a dozen Israeli cars were

stoned in the area.

An Arab resident of Jerusalem was wounded in the head and chest on Friday when stones were hurled at his vehicle near the Dehaishe refugee camp. The man was hospitalized and a curfew was imposed on the camp until nightfall.

In other West Bank incidents yesterday, a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli car last night near Halhoul, but caused no injuries. A curfew was imposed on the town until midnight.

A 15-year-old from Tubas, near Nablus, was shot in the leg by a policeman during a demonstration in which protesters stoned the local police station. Petrol bombs were hurled at the station last night.

In Nablus shopkeepers shuttered (Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Shamir tries to defuse crisis

Labour huddles on threat to coalition

Compiled from reports by Asher Wallfish, Menachem Shalev and Lea Levavi.

The gravity of the threat to the survival of the national unity government will become clearer this morning, when Vice Premier Peres meets his Alignment ministerial colleagues at 7.30 a.m. prior to the weekly cabinet session.

Although most Alignment ministers feel the time has not yet come to dismantle the coalition, despite Prime Minister Shamir's unprecedented attacks on Peres, they are awaiting some signal from Peres himself.

In an interview with Israel television on Friday, Peres was pessimistic about the future of the coalition, but prepared to be patient about the next move.

Meanwhile, Shamir told Israel TV Friday that he had no intention of breaking up the coalition. But Peres must stop working for an international conference, he said.

At the same time Shamir ordered his aides to defuse some of the tension; to explain that he had nothing personal against Peres; and to note that he had not been more elegant in criticizing Peres's moves

Plan for parley

Foreign Minister Peres will soon present the cabinet with a proposal on an international peace conference, Avraham Tamir, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, said yesterday.

Tamir, in an interview with Kol Yisrael, said that recent contacts with Soviet and Chinese officials had been aimed at setting the groundwork for such a conference, and that "within a short time" the foreign minister "will be able to present an international framework through which one can reach direct talks."

Meanwhile, President Reagan has made it clear that Washington does not rule out the convening of an international conference, adding that Israel is justified in opposing the participation of states that do not recognize its existence.

yet been fixed between Peres and Shamir, to brief the premier on Peres's talks in Europe, including those with two senior Soviet officials in Rome.

After the meeting of Alignment ministers and before the cabinet session, Shamir, Peres and Defence Minister Rabin are likely to meet in the unofficial body termed the "Prime Ministers' Forum." Peres and Rabin have both served as prime ministers.

Peres is expected to brief the cabinet on his trip, and Likud and Alignment ministers are expected to let off a lot of steam in the wake of the briefing.

The heat of the exchange will not necessarily indicate the intentions of each party with respect to the future of the coalition.

Shamir told Israel TV on Friday night: "If Peres and the Labour Party don't stop their activities in favour of an international conference, it means they want to break up the government. They must follow the line which I advocate. I have no intention of dismantling the national unity government."

"One of the sides has to change its position," Shamir added.

Peres, on the same TV news magazine, described Shamir's attack

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Herzog hails the historic value of trip

Jerusalem Post Staff

On his return from Europe on Friday, President Chaim Herzog said his visit to West Germany, the first ever by an Israeli head of state, drew more attention to the Holocaust among West Germans than any event since the Eichmann trial in 1961.

Prime Minister Shamir, Foreign Minister Peres and Ministers Ezer Weizman, Ya'acov Tsur, Yitzhak Navon, Avraham Shafir, Moshe Arens and Yigael Hurvitz participated in the airport welcoming ceremonies.

In East Berlin, the Communist Party yesterday denounced Herzog for using his West Berlin visit last week to accuse it of playing down Nazi persecution of the Jews.

"Mr. President, would it not have been better if you had remained silent," the party newspaper *Neues Deutschland* said in a commentary.

Herzog said on Thursday in a speech made a few kilometres from the Berlin Wall that East Germany maintained a "poignant silence" on the fate of Jews during the 12-year Nazi rule, effectively twisting history to its own ends.

Neues Deutschland said many of the country's own leaders had suffered at the hands of the Nazis. "Respect for the victims of fascism, including, of course, the millions of Jewish people murdered, is a basic philosophy of our land," the paper said.

East German history books have in the past always stressed the persecution of communists with only passing references to the six million Jews killed under the Nazis.



Secretary of State George Shultz (left) prepares to board a plane yesterday for Helsinki, before flying on to Moscow tomorrow for a crucial meeting with Soviet leader Gorbachev. Gorbachev, shown here with Czech President Gustav Husak in Prague, returned to Moscow yesterday.

(AFP, Reuters)

Reagan welcomes Kremlin's new arms control proposal

LOS ANGELES (Reuters). - President Reagan on Friday welcomed a new arms control offer by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and renewed his invitation for a third summit.

On the eve of Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to Moscow to prepare for arms talks, Reagan said the Kremlin had shown a new seriousness on arms control since his summit with Gorbachev in Iceland last October.

"A breakthrough in the talks on intermediate-range missiles is now a distinct possibility," he told reporters following a speech here.

In a move that could help progress towards a superpower agreement on eliminating intermediate-range missiles in Europe, Gorbachev in a speech in Prague on Friday called for negotiations on shorter-range rockets to begin irrespective of talks on longer-range missiles. The Soviet leader was speaking before cutting short his Czech trip and returning to Moscow.

The issue of the shorter range missiles, which can travel between 480 and 960 km, is crucial in the

Euromissile talks and will be high on Shultz's agenda when he visits Moscow this week.

Asked about Gorbachev's statement after delivering a speech to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on his way to a California vacation, Reagan said: "I am pleased to hear him say that."

In his speech, Reagan gave a dispassionate assessment of U.S. Soviet relations, saying they were "proceeding," and renewed his call for a third summit with Gorbachev in the U.S., saying: "The welcome mat is still out."

The superpower relationship gave "no great cause for excitement, no great cause for alarm," he said.

On alleged Soviet spying on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which Shultz said had cast a cloud over his Moscow visit, Reagan said: "There's no excuse for what they did or the way security was handled in Moscow."

Shultz, accompanied by 100 advisers, security personnel and technicians and about 25 journalists, was to fly first to Helsinki, travelling to Moscow tomorrow.

U.S. doubts Soviet shift on Jews

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and agencies

WASHINGTON. - Senior U.S. officials yesterday sought to dampen speculation of a radical shift in the Soviet Union's emigration policy.

They insisted that the recent Soviet assurances given to two Jewish leaders during a visit to Moscow were virtually the same as those initially made in January.

"It was an old promise," a top U.S. official said. "It was nothing new."

During talks with Soviet leaders late last month, Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress, and Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, were told that most of the approximately 11,000 long-term

Jewish refuseniks would be permitted to leave this year.

But, according to senior U.S. officials, this same pledge was first made in January by Samuel Ziv, a well-known Soviet Jew who supports the Soviet government's policies by chairing an official anti-Zionist committee in Moscow. Shortly afterwards, the Soviets repeated that promise to senior U.S. diplomats.

Those earlier promises have been "overlooked" in the rush of excitement that followed the Bronfman-Abram statements, U.S. officials said.

The only new message given to Bronfman and Abram, according to these officials, involved a commitment to ease restrictions on the practice of Judaism in the Soviet Union including the teaching of Hebrew.

"That aspect is new," one U.S. official said.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is to hold talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow this week, plans to underscore his personal support for free Jewish emigration by attending a Seder Monday evening at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

In recent years, the embassy has invited leading Soviet Jewish activists to a Seder hosted by Ambassador Arthur Hartman, who recently completed his tour of duty. Hartman is Jewish. The new U.S. ambassador, Jack Matlock, is not Jewish, but several American diplomats in Moscow are.

U.S. officials said that the January promise of a relaxation in emigration policies for refuseniks was indeed being implemented: early February

(Continued on Back Page)

Chronicles of Auschwitz

Primo Levi an apparent suicide

TURIN (Reuters). - Italian best-selling novelist Primo Levi, a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz, died yesterday after falling down the stairwell of his flat in what police called an apparent suicide.

They said Levi, who was 67, died instantly.

Investigators said Levi, whose traumatic experiences as a prisoner in the Nazi extermination camp formed the basis of his creativity, appeared to have leaped to his death from the stairs of his third floor Turin flat.

Sources close to the family said the writer had been depressed by his mother's poor health and had recently undergone minor surgery for a prostate complaint.

The sources said he had also been concerned by what he saw as a resurgence of anti-Semitism in Germany and other European countries. Like 1986 Nobel Peace Prize win-

ner Elie Wiesel, Levi was deeply affected by his wartime experiences. "I wrote my first book in 1946 as a catharsis," he said in a recent interview. "It was a witness to free me from the weight of Auschwitz."

The book, *Survival in Auschwitz*,

went on to become an international best-seller. Levi followed it with a series of works based on the experiences of Jews at the hands of the Nazis.

Born in Turin in July 1919 to a prominent Jewish family, Levi studied natural science and graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1941. He began his professional life in a paint factory before joining the anti-Fascist resistance.

He was captured by the Fascists and briefly interned in Italy before being sent to Auschwitz in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Levi said he survived only because he was lucky enough to have technical skills needed by the Nazis.

A quiet, soft-spoken man, Levi was proud of his background and remained a staunch defender of Jewish tradition.

He leaves a widow, a son and a daughter.



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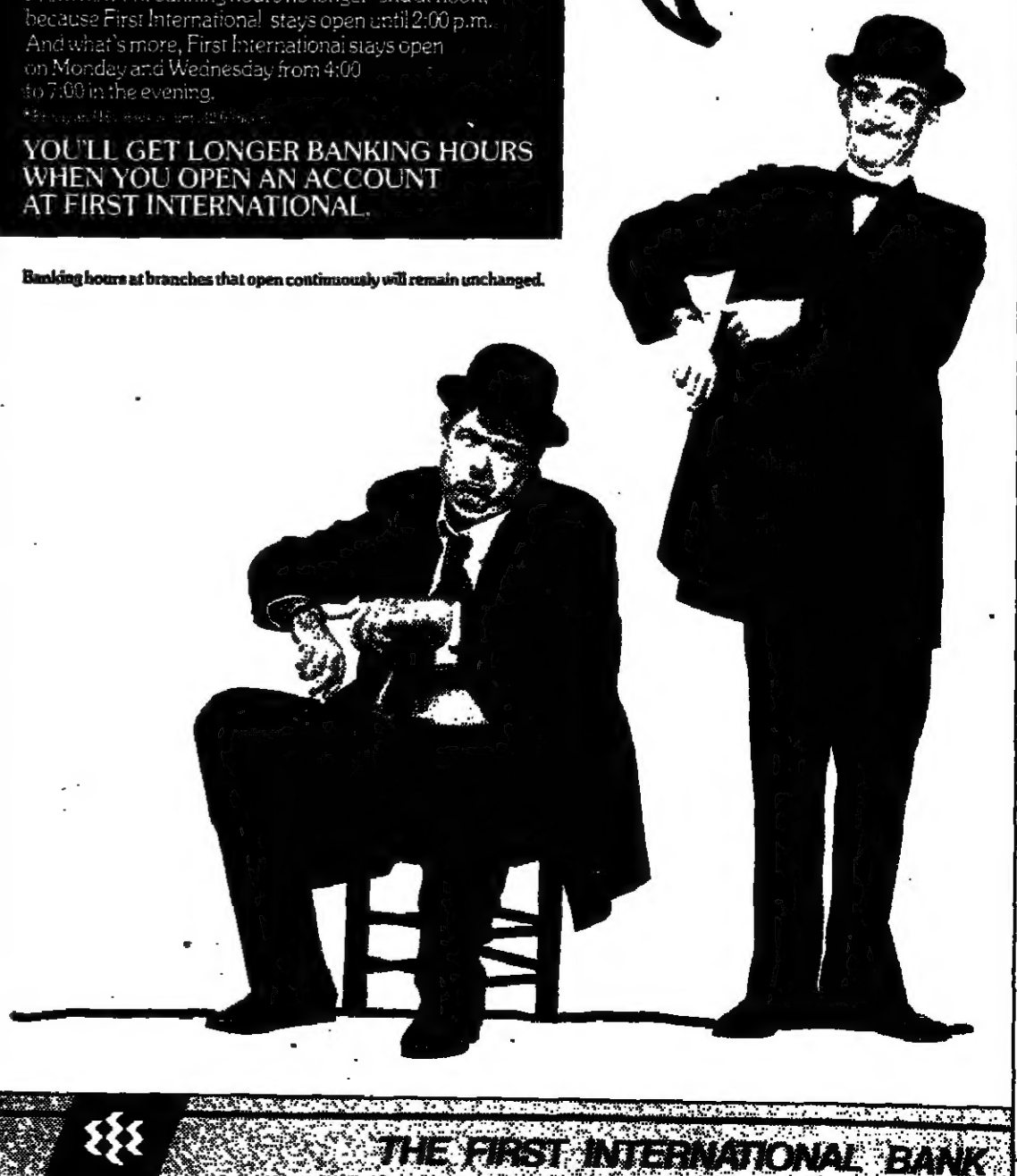
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LONDON	6	43	55	Clear
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Ex-GSS head loses U.S. deal

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
NEW YORK. — The New York and New Jersey airport authorities cancelled a \$75,000 contract for an airport security study with an Israeli company that is represented by former General Security Services head Avraham Shalom, the *New York Daily News* reported over the weekend.

The contract was signed originally by Avraham Ben-Dor, the name normally used by Shalom. When the airport authorities realized that Avraham Ben-Dor was in fact Avraham Shalom, they decided to cancel the contract.

Prior to his resignation from the GSS, Shalom was a member of the Israeli liaison team, together with former Foreign Ministry deputy director-general Hanan Bar-On, that coordinated the Israeli side of the investigation into the Pollard affair with the U.S. authorities.

Hints of another affair

By MENACHEM SHALEV
A "new event, which is linked to one of the affairs that created a storm recently, and about which the press is prohibited from reporting, is troubling senior officials in Jerusalem," *Davar* reported on Friday.

The *Davar* item was one of two that appeared in last week's Hebrew press.

The other was an article in *Koteret Rashit* entitled "Perhaps this will be the Next Affair — Ginossar is Haunting the President." In this piece, the magazine's editor, Nahum Barnea, alludes to the potential "grave ramifications" arising from ex-Shin Bet executive Yossi Ginossar's claim that his manipulation and fabrication of evidence while serving as a member of the Zorea Commission had conformed with Shin Bet practices in the past.

Barnea writes that President Herzog is "entangled" in the matter of presidential pardons and has reached a "dead end."

Ginossar's claim, Barnea writes, has "cast a dark shadow over his own activities and perhaps those of other Shin Bet employees in the past. As a result of his letter [requesting a presidential pardon for his involvement in the Shin Bet affair] the past may once again haunt the president and the legal system."

There is concern, writes Barnea, "that in order to prevent harm to the country's security, the authorities will eventually have to harm the country's security. This is what happens when there is a presidential knot."

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

London 'Observer' links dealer to PLO

Britain and U.S. used Syrian arms dealer to supply Contras

By DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — Britain and the U.S. used a Syrian arms dealer, wanted for alleged involvement in terrorism on both sides of the Atlantic, as a middle man for arms sales to the Nicaraguan Contras, according to a report published here today.

The man is named in today's *Observer* as Monzer al-Kassar, a Syrian national wanted in Britain for the alleged purchase of timers for use in terrorist bombs. Al-Kassar is also believed to be a "banker for the PLO," according to the report.

The U.S. Justice Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency have ordered an "all ports" watch for al-Kassar, who is reported to be strongly linked to terrorist groups in Europe and the Middle East.

According to today's report, al-Kassar arranged the sale of \$10 million worth of arms to the Contras by the British defence company Hall and Watts. He also reportedly acted as a conduit for millions of dollars worth of arms purchased for the Contras by the CIA.

Scotland Yard has confirmed that al-Kassar is wanted for questioning here in connection with the case of Norwich businessman John Berry, who was jailed in 1984 for manufacturing and selling timers for bombs.

At his trial, Berry said that al-Kassar had ordered bomb timers from him, and that he believed al-Kassar was acting on behalf of the Syrian government.

Hall and Watts have confirmed that they sold arms, which ended up in Contra hands, "in a joint venture" with al-Kassar. A spokesman for the company is quoted in today's report as saying: "By the time we found out who we were dealing with, it was too late to back out."

The arms reportedly sold through al-Kassar to the Contras included Soviet assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and large quantities of ammunition.

According to arms trade sources, al-Kassar, who lives in a \$50m. palace in Marbella, Spain, is one of the world's most successful private arms dealers, specializing in equipment from the Soviet bloc. He is said to be worth over \$1 billion.

Druse leaders in Golan charge 'Israeli sabotage'

By YOEL DAR
For The Jerusalem Post
MAJDAL SHAMS. — Special services were held in four Druse villages yesterday after the destruction here on Friday morning of a statue of a Druse hero.

Police said they did not know who destroyed the statue, but believed the damage might have been caused by a passing truck.

Druse leaders said it was a deliberate act of Israeli sabotage, and hundreds of residents gathered at the site Friday morning and pelted policemen with stones.

Kiryat Shmona police chief Moshe Cohen was injured in the beat and rushed to hospital. The demonstrators also caused damage to a police van. Additional police and Border Police were called to restore order.

The statue of Sultan al-Atrash, a leader of the 1925 Druse rebellion against the French, was unveiled in the town's main square eight days ago.

Druse MK Amal Nasser e-Din (Likud) did not rule out the possibility that pro-Syrian elements were behind the incident, in an effort to unite the Golan Druse against the Israeli government.

Police Inspector-General David Kraus, who visited the site, said he was convinced that hostile elements were trying to "take advantage of the situation."

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality has demanded a commission of inquiry into the vandalism of the statue, a party spokesman said yesterday. In a cable, to Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, the party asked for a thorough investigation of the incident and punishment of those responsible.

A solidarity meeting with the Golan Druse was held yesterday in the Druse village of Yarka, the spokesman said. He said speakers charged that the government was responsible for the damage to the statue.



An ultra-Orthodox demonstrator is pushed away during yesterday's demonstration outside a Jerusalem restaurant that opens on Saturday. Tens of ultra-Orthodox men and an equal number of Citizens Rights Movement demonstrators confronted each other near the Me and Me restaurant for about 45 minutes. The owner said he had hired a night watchman to protect the premises following threats and a smashed door.

(Continued from Page One)

on the international conference as "election campaign talk" which tends to "paint hysterical pictures and to exaggerate and inflame."

Peres, referring to Shamir's characterization of the conference, on Thursday, as a "monstrous and insane nightmare," described this as "dismantling the basis on which the national unity government stands."

But the dismantling process should be taken "with patience and sang froid," Peres added. "It doesn't have to be today or tomorrow."

"Some people are shocked when they hear the word peace," Peres continued.

Earlier, in a radio interview, Peres said: "The real nightmare is the possibility that we will continue to live by the sword."

The only Likud minister who has come out for early elections is Yitzhak Moda'i. The others have not only criticized the idea, but have also refrained from provoking the Alignment.

The only Alignment ministers who have come out for early elections are Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur and Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman.

Tsur told *The Jerusalem Post*: "Shamir's attacks on Peres created

Vendors face fines under Matzot Law

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Vendors displaying bread, rolls, pitot, non-Pessah cakes, noodles or biscuits from noon tomorrow will be liable to fines of up to NIS 3,000, under the new Matzot Law.

Instructions distributed to municipal inspectors by Interior Ministry Director-General Arye Deri note that the penalty applies only to those who display goods that are *hametz* (not kosher for Pessah). It does not affect those who produce, transport or eat such goods.

The Secular Service, a body devoted to providing a secular alternative, last week advised retailers that they could circumvent the law, passed about six months ago, by selling their *hametz* in closed bags.

According to Deri's instructions, the law also applies to non-Jewish vendors, except in non-Jewish communities or in parts of mixed communities — like East Jerusalem — where most of the businesses are not Jewish.

Offenders will not have the option of paying the fine without appearing in court.

Inspectors do not have the authority to impound *hametz* goods, Deri said.

The restrictions will be in effect until 7:50 p.m. on Monday, April 20.

Netanya Dovrat, leading soprano, dead at 56

By ELI KAREV
Israeli soprano Netanya Dovrat died of cancer yesterday in Tel Aviv at the age of 56.

Dovrat began singing at 16 and soon embarked on a full-fledged professional career which included opera, orchestral performances and song recitals. She sang and recorded with the leading American and European orchestras as well as all the Israeli orchestras.

During the last six years she dedicated herself to teaching and educated a generation of first-rate professional Israeli singers. The funeral is today at 2.30 p.m. in Tel Aviv.

7 died on roads last week

Seven people were killed and 63 others critically injured in 58 serious road accidents in the week ending last Thursday, police reported.

LABOUR

a new situation, in which we can no longer dodge the choice between either ceasing to work for an international conference or bringing the coalition to an end. Shamir put the ball in the Alignment court. We have been deluding ourselves that Peres could carry on working for a conference and Shamir could carry on criticizing him, while the coalition would proceed as before."

Tsur continued: "If the Alignment ministers do not decide to break up the coalition, I shall raise the proposal in the appropriate party forum, the secretariat [lishka]."

Weizman, continuing his drive to bring down the government, told Israel TV that Peres was committing a "fundamental mistake" if he continued to serve.

Weizman said he was not surprised by Shamir's sharp attack on Peres. "Shamir did not vote for peace [in the Knesset debate on the Camp David accord] and he has a habit of frightening and warning the nation about dangers lurking behind every corner. It's a method which I know well, a stupid method which is inadmissible."

Likud Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens said that ministers who felt they could not continue to serve should simply resign. The coalition agreement said nothing about an international conference, he noted. Had the Alignment sought to include it, the coalition would not have come into being, Arens said.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon told *The Post* last night that although Shamir's attack on Peres had "brought the election date closer," he personally was still opposed



Jewish and Arab youths take part in a rally for peace and coexistence yesterday at the settlement of Neve Shalom, near the Latrun Monastery. An estimated 20,000 people, including a large contingent of West Bank Arabs, participated. Entertainment was provided by Jewish and Arab actors and singers.

Prisoners' hunger strike starting to fizzle out

By JOEL GREENBERG
The hunger strike of Palestinian security prisoners reportedly tapered off over the weekend, with 670 inmates still on strike in two prisons.

Prisons Service spokesman Shimon Malka said 600 prisoners were on strike at the central West Bank jail at Jailed near Nablus, and 70 inmates at Nafha prison in the Negev. He said prisoners at the Hebron jail ended their strike Friday, and that all prisoners were expected to end their protest this week.

The strike had included some 3,000 inmates when it began on March 25. Prisoners charged that the conditions and treatment of inmates had deteriorated under Prisons Commissioner David Maimon, and that they had been beaten, strip-searched and subjected to tear-gas attacks in their cells.

Malka said that a visiting senior Red Cross official, Dr. Claude Felix, who arrived from Geneva to inspect the condition of the prisoners, told chief Prisons Service doctor Ya'acov

Ziegelbaum that the inmates had received "excellent and professional treatment" during the hunger strike. The prisoners have been visited daily by Red Cross officials.

Malka said 18 prisoners who had been put under medical observation at the Ayalon Prison had stopped their hunger strike and been returned to their cells.

The Palestinian human rights legal group, Law in the Service of Man, said over the weekend that it had obtained documented information on maltreatment of prisoners at Jailed jail. It called for an investigation of prison conditions by independent international observers. Prisoners had been subjected to serious beatings and both physical and psychological pressure to act as informers for prison authorities, the group said. Prisoners were exposed to health hazards from asbestos sheets on windows which blocked light and air, and they were not allowed to visit other prisoners in their block, the group added.

Hungarian paper gives new details about Wallenberg

BUDAPEST (AP). — The government newspaper, breaking the country's virtual silence on a delicate issue with the Soviets, yesterday carried a full-page article with new details about Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat abducted by the Soviets in 1945.

Wallenberg became known around the world for saving the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews from Nazi deportation and extermination by providing them with Swedish immigration permits.

The newspaper, *Magyar Hirlap*, said that according to the only authentic document on his case, "Wallenberg died in Moscow's Lyubianka Prison in 1947, as a victim of [Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's] personality cult."

The article contained an interview with László Hertelendy, a member of an old-established Hungarian family, and the last man who saw Wallenberg before his disappearance.

"According to Hertelendy," the paper said, "Wallenberg's humanitarian mission did not start in 1944, as believed until now, but much earlier."

Hertelendy recalled that Wallenberg started giving support to Jews in 1941 through the good offices of Dr. Imre Szabo, a priest.

He added, "I last met him [Wallenberg] on February 12 at the Kristina Church's parish office [and not on January 12, 1945, as the only book about Wallenberg, published here in 1947, said]."

"In fact, February 12 was the day when the first Soviet patrols appeared in the region of the Kristina Church... Physically he was not in bad condition, but he looked most dejected..."

He said, "When we asked him what was wrong with him, he said, 'This is not the way I thought things would be like.' Perhaps he had the illusion that the Soviets would deal with him as a very important man... He said, 'perhaps tomorrow it will be me asking you to help me...'"

Hertelendy said Wallenberg hid in the boilerhouse of the church to avoid an identity card check when he saw a Soviet patrol car.

"More troops came into the building later on, and Wallenberg said, 'Good bye... I will be showing up again.' But he never did," said the Hungarian friend.

SETTLER

(Continued from Page One)

their stores.

Petrol bombs were thrown at Israeli construction equipment at the Hadar Beit settlement west of Bethlehem, and protesters burned tires and hurled stones in Bethlehem and Ramallah.

Prisons service warders fired in the air near the village of Hilmei when stones were thrown at their bus.

The unrest over the past week is linked to a hunger-strike by Palestinian security prisoners, which enters its 19th day today.

Moroccan dance troupe delays visit

ASHKELON (Itim). — A Moroccan dance troupe that was scheduled to perform here during the Mimouna festivities has been delayed in Belgium on orders of the Moroccan ambassador there.

The troupe, consisting of some 30 dancers, singers and musicians, arrived in Brussels and were to have continued on to Paris for a flight to Israel.

Organizers of the troupe's schedule have asked contacts in Morocco to try to influence the royal court to allow the visit, which was announced after Shimon Peres met with King Hassan in Morocco.

Body of drowned youth found near Ashkelon

ASHKELON (Itim). — The body of Asif Levy, 16, who drowned on April 4 off the Zikim beach south of here, was washed ashore Friday morning.

The Levi, of Moshav Feduyim in the northwest Negev, drowned when his wind-surfboard overturned.

Shamir probed

Prime Minister Shamir was interviewed Friday by the panel probing the Jonathan Pollard affair. The members of the panel, Yehoshua Rottenstreich and Tzvi Tsur, met with Shamir in his office in Jerusalem for more than an hour and a half.

Shamir's military secretary, Tal Aluf Azriel Nevo, attended the meeting, officials in the Prime Minister's office said.

Today the members of the panel are to meet with Foreign Minister Peres, to hear his version of the affair. Peres was prime minister when Pollard spied for Israel.



United Israel Appeal — Keren Hayesod

Our leaders, contributors and friends from overseas are cordially invited to a special event for Pessah, on the theme —

Illegal Immigration: Prelude to the Jewish State

with

Arieh Lova Eliav

one of Israel's outstanding public figures and a commander in "Aliya Bet".

A short, dramatic film on the subject will be screened.

The event will take place at the Auditorium of Beth Hatefutsoth, on Thursday, Hol Hamoad Pessah, April 16, 1987, at 11:00 a.m.

(A bus will leave from the Tel Aviv Hilton at 10:15 a.m. and from the Tel Aviv Sheraton at 10:25 a.m.)

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In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear

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The funeral will take place at 3.30 p.m., today, Sunday, April 12, 1987, at Kibbutz Kabri.

Her mother, Hanna Lauterbach, Jerusalem — Nahariya
Her husband, Amiram Zahavi, and family, Kabri
Her brother, Ze'ev Berkley, and family, Ganei Yehuda
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In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our son

YOEL-MICHAEL SHEFER

He was laid to rest on March 26, 1987 (25 Adar 5747) in Philadelphia, USA.

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on the death of his

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British Airways Staff, Israel

Order is 'designed to protect public safety'

S.A. bans protests on detentions

CAPE TOWN (Reuters). — South Africa tightened its clamp on protest yesterday ahead of whites-only general election, banning calls for the release of thousands of people detained without trial under emergency rule.

Police chief General Johan Coetzee issued an order barring any form of petition or meeting to protest against detentions or to call for the release of detainees or to honour them.

Lawyers said that the banning order would bar politicians and anti-apartheid groups from calling on voters to support and campaign to free detainees or to stage any public act of solidarity with them — including praying for them in church.

Coetzee has wide power under the nine-month-old state of emergency to declare censorship rules on what may be said or printed publicly.

Veteran white liberal politician Helen Suzman said she would ignore the ban.

"I cannot allow it to affect my general election campaigning. I've been against detention without trial since it was first introduced in South Africa in 1963. It's a total abrogation of the rule of law."

Coetzee said the order was designed to protect law and order and public safety.

At the UN Thursday night, the U.S. and Britain vetoed a bid in the Security Council to impose sanctions against South Africa and their action

was at once condemned as support for mining companies.

In the vote, nine of the council's 15 members favoured the draft, aimed at forcing South Africa to implement an eight-year-old UN independence plan for Namibia (South West Africa), a vast, sparsely populated territory rich in minerals.

In Johannesburg, buoyed by a resurgence of economic optimism and a wave of bullish sentiment on prospects for gold, South African share prices have been streaking upward to record levels in hectic trading.

Analysts are confident the stock market will extend its advance to new heights, despite the slowly growing impact of economic sanc-

tions.

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange Overall Index was up 17 points to a new high of 2237 Thursday after surging 32 points on Wednesday.

In London, the chief of the African National Congress (ANC), which is striving for recognition as South Africa's legitimate opposition movement, will address a major meeting of international businessmen for the first time next month.

ANC President Oliver Tambo will be a guest speaker at the conference in London on the country's economic outlook, said a spokesman for the ANC, the main black nationalist guerrilla group fighting for majority rule in white-led South Africa.

Opposition makes big gains in Egypt poll

CAIRO (Reuters). — Opposition parties almost doubled their seats in the Egyptian parliament in this week's general elections, but President Hosni Mubarak's ruling party retained an overwhelming majority, it was announced Friday.

The combined opposition and independents won a total of 101 seats in the 458-member People's Assembly, compared with 58 in the last elections in 1984, and will now be led by an alliance of moderate Socialists and Islamic hardliners.

Mubarak's National Democratic party (NDP) saw its strength cut from 391 in the old house to a total of 338 party members and pro-NDP independents, according to results given by Interior Minister Zaki Badr in an early morning broadcast.

A Tripartite Alliance group of Socialists, Liberals and the officially banned but tolerated Moslem Brotherhood, won 56 seats and overtook the centre-right New Wafd party as the largest opposition group.

New Wafd, the sole opposition party in the last assembly with 58 seats, emerged with 36. In addition, four supporters of the Alliance standing as individual candidates and five independents were elected.

Meanwhile, crowds clashed with police in two Egyptian towns Fayoum, 100 kilometres from Cairo, and Luxor — after the defeat of their candidates in last week's parliamentary elections, security sources said yesterday.

'Gluttons and slob'

BONN (Reuters). — A war of vicious insults erupted between Britain and West Germany on Friday, with the countries' toughest tabloids calling each other's citizens arrogant gluttons and drunken slob.

The attacks, in Britain's largest-selling tabloid, *The Sun*, and West Germany's mass-circulation *Bild*, appeared to be sparked by a lack of deck-chairs at the poolside of Majorca and Tenerife.

Monday's *Sun*, in an article headlined "Vot Makes Krauts Holiday Loust?" accused West German tourists of being rude, gluttonous, and making dawn raids on the deck-chairs.

Friday's *Bild* accused the British of being drunken, slovenly, and making dawn raids on deck-chairs.

The *Sun* said "beer-swilling Krauts" were making holidays a misery for British tourists in the Canary Islands resort of Tenerife, where, according to the tabloid, the Germans ate up all the best food and made endless noise.

Bild said the British idea of a holiday in the Balearic Islands resort of Majorca seemed to be steady drinking from sun-up to fall-down, followed by a sleep on the beach, or anywhere convenient.

While *The Sun* snorted at "sour Fraus," *Bild* ridiculed British women with "Lobster-red bellies bulging over skin-tight trousers" awash in booze and clinging obscenely to their dance partners.

There has been no official comment on the newspapers' stories.

Spying: Soviets and U.S. trade charges

LOS ANGELES. — President Reagan said yesterday that efforts to improve superpower relations have been hampered because Kremlin efforts to spy on the U.S. embassy in Moscow have gone "beyond the bounds of reason."

Reagan, making his weekly radio address from Los Angeles, said he had instructed Secretary of State George Shultz, on his way to Moscow, to serve notice on Soviet officials that "if we are to improve relations, such espionage tactics are totally unacceptable."

Reagan made no reference to countercharges by the Soviets that the U.S. had compromised the security of Soviet installations in this country, including the new embassy under construction in Washington.

But Reagan, who has talked often in recent days of the superpower espionage problem, suggested it would be unrealistic to expect that this never happens.

"Unfortunately, no one is suggesting that Soviet espionage is not a fact of life. But what seems to be emerging is the picture of an intense espionage strategy that reflects a callous disregard for the consequ-

ences of such actions," he said.

Three U.S. Marines have been charged with espionage in an alleged spy scandal involving the current U.S. embassy building in Moscow.

In Washington, Soviet officials on Friday accused the U.S. of planting dozens of listening devices in their new Washington embassy as they gave journalists an unprecedented tour of the heavily-guarded building.

Embassy security chief Viacheslav Borovikov also charged, without giving details, that a Soviet diplomat was blinded in one eye by a laser beam that struck him through a window.

Another official accused western intelligence agencies of using "Mata Hari" to entice Eastern Bloc diplomats.

"It's good at least when you see all the microphones. They are visible," quipped minister-counsellor Eugeny Kutonoy, as he faced about 100 journalists.

The event was designed to counter U.S. allegations the Soviets have so thoroughly "bugged" the unfinished American embassy in Moscow it may have to be demolished and rebuilt.



Diana, Princess of Wales, shakes hands with an unidentified 32-year-old AIDS patient in his private room in London's Middlesex Hospital last week. The princess was on a tour of the ward which opened in January for the care of AIDS victims. (Reuters telephoto)

Cut-price computer chips spark row

Sanctions: Japan warns U.S. of reprisals

TOKYO (Reuters). — Japan reacted bitterly yesterday to the U.S. decision to go ahead with trade sanctions, labelling the action discriminatory and warning of possible reprisals.

"Should the United States implement the announced measures, Japan would have to take appropriate measures to defend its interests, including pursuing its rights under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)," the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

On Friday, Washington said that two days of emergency talks called by Japan had failed to head off its plans to impose tariffs on some Japanese exports on April 17.

President Reagan announced the sanctions in retaliation for what he called Japan's failure to honour a

July 1986 agreement to stop selling cut-price chips in world markets and import more U.S. semi-conductors. Japanese officials said MITI Vice-Minister Makoto Kuroda would probably stay in Washington this week and seek further talks on the issue.

Analysts said Kuroda would probably try to persuade U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige to delay, soften or set a specific time for lifting the sanctions.

If he failed, MITI officials said Japan could file a complaint against the U.S.

MITI also disputed America's method of calculating the chip production costs used to decide that Japanese dumping was taking place, saying the U.S. data was six months out of date.

Gorbachev tells Czechs, reform is crucial

BRATISLAVA (Reuters). — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev brought his message of reform to the Slovak capital of Bratislava and drew enthusiastic crowds before cutting short his visit to Czechoslovakia yesterday, apparently to prepare for talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz this week.

During his three-day stay in Czechoslovakia, Gorbachev hammered home his view of the crucial need to reform hidebound communist systems. He injected a rare vivacity into the staid Czechoslovak political scene with his appearances and repartee with crowds.

He flew with Czechoslovak Communist leader Gustav Husak, himself a Slovak, to Bratislava, near the Austrian border. Thousands lined the streets, clearly delighted by the accessibility of the visitor after the remoteness of their own leaders.

Speaking at one gathering, Gor-

bachev gave his most direct comments so far on the events of 1968, when a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion put down the radical political and economic reform movement.

"I've already been here twice before. When I visited the first time, the times were rather difficult. It was 1969...but we have naturally survived many difficult times since then. It was a hard school. Life is in fact a hard school. There is no harder school."

While Husak, 74, has formally embraced the principles of reforms which relax central economic control and allow more open government, many of his colleagues have strong reservations.

The leadership has been in power since the 1968 invasion and was installed specifically to eradicate the reforms then undertaken by former communist leader Alexander Dubcek.

Iraq claims it crushed Iran attack

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP). — Iraq said its forces drove Iranian troops from territory in southern Iraq in a big attack yesterday and inflicted casualties in the tens of thousands.

A 21-gun salute echoed across the Iraqi capital after the military command in Baghdad announced the victory, said the state-run Iraqi news agency, monitored in Nicosia.

The agency did not say how much territory was retaken, but said the area was "liberated" in a "massive" pre-dawn attack.

"Tens of thousands of enemy troops were killed or wounded and their bodies are littering the battlefield," Defence Minister Gen. Adnan Khairullah said in a telegram to President Saddam Hussein.

The congratulatory telegram, which was quoted by INA, said the Iraqi attack involved jet fighters, helicopter gunships, artillery, infantry and armoured columns.

The agency said Iranian forces tried to counterattack but "those attempts were crushed."

Iraq did not comment following

the latest victory claims by Iraq. But its Islamic Republic news agency said earlier that at least 3,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when Iranian forces "smashed" a "heavy enemy counterattack."

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FOREIGN BRIEFS

Thirty die in South African mine blast

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — Thirty South African miners were killed Thursday night after methane gas exploded in a coal mine east of Johannesburg, the mine's owners said Friday.

The Trans Natal Coal Corporation said the workers, 27 blacks and three whites, died 110 metres underground at its colliery near Ermelo in Eastern Transvaal province.

A company spokesman said nine miners were slightly injured and the rest of the 700 overnight-shift workers were safely evacuated to the surface.

Twelve killed by Pakistan car bomb

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (Reuters). — At least 12 people were killed by a car bomb near the residence of Pakistani President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, doctors said Friday. About 100 people were injured by the explosion, which ripped through a crowded bazaar area of Rawalpindi, five kilometres from Zia's home Thursday night, they said. Police said they had no clues about who was responsible for the attack, which came two-and-a-half weeks after an explosion killed nine people and injured 100 at a rally of a Moslem religious party in Lahore.

Top Soviet dissident allowed to emigrate

THE HAGUE (Reuters). — Soviet dissident psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin, recently freed after six years in prison, has been given permission to emigrate to the West with his family, a close friend told a Dutch human rights group yesterday. The Koryagins are expected to go to Switzerland.

Robert van Voren of the Amsterdam-based Bukovsky Foundation said a family friend told him by telephone from the Ukrainian city of Kharkov that the Koryagins were called to the visa office (Ovri) Friday and told they could collect their passports by the middle of next week.

U.S. official in Beirut on peace mission

BEIRUT. — A U.S. State Department official arrived here yesterday on a fact-finding mission about efforts to resolve Lebanon's civil war and convene an international conference on the Middle East conflict. U.S. embassy officials said.

Roscoe Suddarth, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, flew into Christian East Beirut, said the officials.

Also yesterday, Ireland's new ambassador to Lebanon, Patrick McCabe, arrived in Beirut and delivered an appeal from the family of an Irish hostage now entering his second year in captivity.

"We the family of Brian Keenan, an Irish citizen, appeal to the people of Beirut to help us," said the message read by McCabe in English on Christian Voice of Lebanon radio. (AP, Reuters)

Dutch introduce measures to stem immigration

THE HAGUE (Reuters). — The Netherlands decided Friday to introduce tough new measures to stem a surge in the number of asylum-seekers and to speed up the procedure for ruling on refugee cases.

Dutch officials said the provisions were urgently needed because the influx, mostly from Third World countries, had brought the Immigration Service to a standstill and stretched government resources.

Second MP to step down in shares row

LONDON (Reuters). — A second British Conservative member of Parliament has announced he will not stand in the general election expected this year after admitting he made illegal multiple applications for British Telecom (BT) shares.

Eric Cockeram, member of Parliament for the West English town of Ludlow, said Friday night he would not seek re-election.

Police are investigating Cockeram and Keith Best, MP for a Welsh constituency, after they admitted filing multiple applications for BT shares when the former state utility was privatized last year.

Indian police convicted of blinding prisoners

NEW DELHI (AFP). — An Indian court has convicted three police officers of blinding two men with spikes and acid in cells in eastern Indian Bihar state, reports said here yesterday.

The policemen were jailed Wednesday for three years.

THE ISRAEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
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The "Prague" Symphony

TEL AVIV, Tel Aviv Museum,
8:30 p.m.
Amadeus Series 1:
Wednesday, April 15
Amadeus Series 2:
Thursday, April 16
Voices and Tones,
Concert No. 7 —
Series 1: Tuesday, April 14
JERUSALEM, Jerusalem Theatre,
8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 18

Sale of tickets continues for concerts to be given by Jean Francois Paillard and his Orchestra — May, 1987, at the Orchestra's office, 4 Weizmann, Tel Aviv, Tel. 210102, and at the Jerusalem Theatre.

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violin

Programme of works by:
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TEL AVIV,
Mann Auditorium,
Series D: Saturday, 18.4.87,
9.00 p.m.
MYUNG-WHUN CHUNG
conductor and pianist
KYUNG-WHA CHUNG
violin
MYUNG-WHA CHUNG
cello

Programme:
Beethoven: Overture "Prometheus"
Beethoven: Triple Concerto
Nielsen: Symphony No. 5

LIGHT CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT NO. 5
TEL AVIV,
Mann Auditorium,
Monday, 20.4.87, 9.00 p.m.
MYUNG-WHUN CHUNG
conductor
JEFFREY LANG
horn

Programme:
Ravel: Ma Mère L'oye (Mother Goose)
Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 2, K. 417
Prokofiev: Excerpts from "Romeo and Juliet"

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Series A: Tuesday, 21.4.87
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Jewish convert who died in Auschwitz to be beatified

A very mixed blessing

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

No doubt there are Catholics who see the beatification of Edith Stein, a Jew who converted to Christianity and died at Auschwitz, as a positive development in Christian-Jewish relations, remarks Rabbi David Rosen, director of interfaith activities in Jerusalem for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

But this attitude represents a certain insensitivity of some Christians toward Jewish sensibilities, he adds.

Rosen, a former chief rabbi of Ireland, continues: "I suppose that within the Church there are those who feel we should be grateful that Stein, who became a nun, is to be beatified by the pope on May 1, during the pontiff's visit to Germany."

Catholics have said that Stein died a martyr for the church, Rosen notes. "But objective scholarship

will show that this was not entirely true."

Reactions to the Holocaust, he says, are a "much more authentic litmus test of Jewish-Christian relations" than the lack of diplomatic ties between the Israel and the Vatican.

Rosen points out that the Sisters of Zion, an order of nuns whom he describes as "genuine lovers of Israel," had cautioned the church against beatifying Stein.

Other Catholics "who are genuine friends of the Jewish people, and want to see them flourish in their land," are also disturbed, he says.

Others favour the beatification, but say this is not an opportune time for it.

Edith Stein came from a devout Jewish family. Her father died when she was 10 and her mother, a strong figure, raised the family. Stein went

to university against her mother's wishes and became fascinated by German philosophy, which had taken an anti-rationalist, Catholic turn.

After she became a nun, Stein identified with the Jewish people in her writings, but did so from the classical Catholic view, Rosen says. Thus, she saw her martyrdom as taking on the "sins" of the Jews. The Church had protested against her deportation.

Rosen says that the fact that Stein is to be beatified indicates that "we are very naive to think the Catholic Church is monolithic." Some high Catholic officials seemed very understanding when they heard of Jewish objections. Referring to the contradictions within the Church concerning the Jewish people, he says: "You can't change 2,000 years overnight."

Israeli Aids kit a hit

By JUDY SIEGEL
Post Science and Health Reporter

The World Health Organization has adopted an Israeli programme for teaching youths about Aids and how to avoid it.

The copyrighted programme — for use in seventh grade through college — was developed by Inon Schenker, a 27-year-old student at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public and Community Health.

Schenker presented his programme last week in Madrid to the First European Conference on Health Education, a WHO assembly attended by some 600 experts.

Despite the panic in many European countries over the fatal viral disease, no other lecture at the conference was devoted solely to Aids.

After Schenker's presentation, the organizers passed a formal resolution recommending that all member countries consider implementing the Aids curriculum and decided to hold a special session devoted to Aids.

The curriculum, which has been tested on Jerusalem teenagers and been found to increase significantly their knowledge about the disease, uses various audio-visual elements, including cartoons, to get the message across.

The participants told Schenker that they were not afraid to teach children as young as 12 about Aids, since they had already heard a great deal of misinformation through the media, and some of the European children had schoolmates with the disease.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Schenker said participants, including many from Eastern European countries where official Aids figures are infinitesimal, pressed him to give them the programme on the spot.

Schenker was even invited to be a member of the planning committee of the next health education conference, scheduled to be held in Poland in three years.

Meanwhile, the association of Israel medical and public health students has volunteered its members to teach the Schenker Aids-education programme in any school that requests it.

Egyptian ambassador Bassiouny:

Mubarak's victory ensures peace

By KEN SCHACHTER
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — A separate peace is "fragile" but a comprehensive peace "cannot be shaken," Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said here on Friday, urging Israel to agree to an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a radio interview broadcast yesterday the same theme was repeated by former Egyptian premier Kamel Hassan Ali, who told Kol Yisrael that Shimon Peres's efforts on behalf of an international peace conference are proof that Israelis want peace with the Arab world.

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, told the radio reporter that continuing the peace process is essential in order to strengthen the moderates in Israel, in Egypt, among the Palestinians and in the Arab world generally.

The Camp David accords "didn't aim at a temporary or a partial peace," Bassiouny said in an address to the Commercial and Industrial Club at Beit Sokolow. He noted that the victory of President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party in last week's elections — it won 310 of the 448 seats in the Egyptian parliament — ensured continuation of his peace policy towards Israel.



Mohammed Bassiouny (David Brauner)

In a question-and-answer session, Bassiouny cautioned against over-optimism in the spheres of trade and tourism between Egypt and Israel.

"Peace between Egypt and Israel accomplished a lot of things, but the most important thing is that Egypt moved from the circle of war to the circle of peace with Israel," he said. "The other things will come slowly."

Bassiouny characterized the dearth of tourism as a reflection of the average Egyptian's concern about the fate of the Palestinians. The envoy cited TV news footage of Jewish settlers firing their weapons

and asked: "What would you feel? If we will not solve the Palestinian problem, we will not come to Israel."

Bassiouny also said that, unlike Israelis, who "like to go abroad at least three times a year," Egyptians tend to be homebodies. Asked why the Egyptian authorities still require special documents for travel to Israel, Bassiouny urged patience: "Shwaya, shwaya [slowly, slowly]," he said.

One group of potential Egyptian tourists Israel could easily woo, however, are the eight million Copts, Bassiouny said. The Copts are engaged in a dispute with the Ethiopian church over control of a section of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

"If you solve this problem, you will have a heavy influx of tourism," Bassiouny predicted.

As for trade, Bassiouny said that the Egyptian government is not placing any obstacles in the way of increased commerce.

When one questioner asked why Egypt wasn't encouraging even sports events, like football matches with Israel, Bassiouny replied: "You know, in football there will be a winner and a loser. At this early stage [of the peace process], we don't want to have a loser."

Grandma's favourite film star

By TOM TUGEND
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LOS ANGELES. — When Marlee Matlin triumphantly clutched her Oscar at the Academy Awards, the folks at the Jewish Homes for the Aging celebrated right along with the 21-year-old deaf actress. Matlin, who was named best actress for her screen debut in *Children of a Lesser God*, is a frequent visitor to the Jewish Homes in suburban Los Angeles, where her maternal grandmother, Rose Solomon, has been living for three years.

Marlee was born and raised in Chicago, where her parents own an automotive agency, the grandmother told *The Jerusalem Post*. When the infant was 18-months-old, she contracted German measles, and shortly afterwards a neighbour noticed that something was amiss.

"Your girl can't hear," the neighbour told Marlee's mother, who refused to believe it. "Marlee can hear when she wants to," the mother maintained.

When the diagnosis was confirmed, Solomon recalled, "I cried and cried and said, 'The poor thing, she won't be able to do anything'."

But Marlee early on showed the spark to overcome her handicap and celebrated her triumph at Carnegie's Temple of the Deaf.



Marlee Matlin receiving her Oscar last month. (AFP)

"She became a wonderful typist and told me she was going to become a lawyer for deaf people," Solomon said.

After the young actress was chosen from 25 candidates to play the deaf heroine of *Children of a Lesser God*, Marlee reassured her grandmother that the artist's life would not change her values.

"Don't worry, grandma," Marlee told Solomon through an interpreter, "I'm going to marry a Jewish boy."

Solomon, who describes herself as an observant Jew, lost three sisters in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. Her brother, a rabbi, died shortly after the war, but his entire family was killed by the Nazis.

Christians and Samaritans prepare for festive week

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

While Jews are busily preparing for their Pesach Seder tomorrow night, the country's small Samaritan community and thousands of Christian residents and pilgrims are also looking forward to their festivals this week.

The entire Samaritan community of 550 is to observe its annual Pesach sacrifice of year-old lambs on Mount Gerizim tonight, following the ancient ritual set down in the Torah.

The slaughtered lambs are first koshered and then roasted in giant pits.

It will be the first sacrifice conducted by the new high priest, Yosef Ben Av-Hisda, 68, whose predecessor died earlier this year.

Today, the Samaritan families are busy baking matzo, which, according to their tradition, must be freshly baked every other day. At sundown,

the high priest will lead the men of the community, all dressed in white, in the reading of Exodus.

For the Christians, today is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week leading up to Easter. This year, both the Western (Roman Catholic and Protestant) and the Eastern (Orthodox, Armenian, Syrian, Coptic and Ethiopian) Churches celebrate Easter on the same day, and the holiday coincides with the Jewish and Samaritan festivities.

Today's rites will include palm processions from Beethpage, on the eastern slopes of the Mount of Olives, to the Old City. Many churches will have washing of the feet ceremonies on Thursday, and processions with crosses along the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday. The Ceremony of the Holy Fire will be observed by Orthodox Christians in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Saturday.

German views of Herzog's visit

By WLADIMIR STRUMINSKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

BONN. — President Chaim Herzog's visit to Germany certainly furthered Israel's interests and constituted a personal success for the president.

On the symbolic level, many Israelis had feared that Germans would interpret Herzog's visit as a closing of the chapter of Nazi history. In reality, however, no responsible voice was heard to such effect. This in itself was important in making the visit a success.

Herzog both spoke of the Holocaust and let his hosts know that Israel and Germany shared the common task of preventing another Auschwitz. But he also clearly acknowledged West Germany as a democratic, friendly partner of Israel. This was soothing for many German politicians, including Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who took the opportunity to make up for statements in recent years that have irritated Israelis.

Kohl stated that the Holocaust was a unique crime, and thus took a stand against those Germans who would equate it with other crimes in history. Kohl also made reassuring remarks about Germany's willingness to help Israel safeguard its survival.

Both German and Israeli sources said that Herzog's visit would make it easier for Germany to support Israel's interests. International economic cooperation and German backing for Israel's positions in the European Community were singled out as examples. Observers pointed out that cooperation in "delicate" areas like defence could be effected without much ado.

However, even while the president was paying his historic visit, some German politicians were calling arms exports to Saudi Arabia. These included Bavarian Prime Minister Franz-Josef Strauss and his Christian Social Party colleague, Hans Klein, Bonn's minister for international economic cooperation.

Making seder for Pesach

In Jerusalem, old-timers say that the time to take out the summer clothes and to put away the winter clothes comes Independence Day.

In Tel Aviv, things are easier. You put away your winter clothes and take out the summer ones at the same time you deal with the whole business called "making seder," which is not the same thing as the family experience tomorrow night called "making a seder." Two different things.

Making seder means cleaning up. Thoroughly. It could be called an expression of personal responsibility. All the junk collected over the years in the backs of drawers, on the tops of shelves, behind the books on the bookshelves, and beneath the piles of magazines saved for reasons completely forgotten.

It's like what the Eban subcommittee investigating the Pollard affair is supposed to be, but it's not at all secret and, of course, it's much easier to cart away things, rather than people, when they've been around too long.

For a week now, bags of clothing and old pieces of furniture, ranging from simple chairs to ungainly sofas, have appeared on the city's sidewalks.

These discards don't last long on the streets.

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv
Robert Rosenberg

First the singles come by, finding the overstuffed chair they've been looking for and will keep in their living room for a year, planning to have it re-upholstered but never getting around to it.

In the mornings, between dawn and a reasonable hour, the invisible men from Gaza with many more children apiece than can be imagined by anybody living in Tel Aviv look for another sweater, another pair of pants, another shirt, no matter how frayed at the collar.

These invisible men, working all around you in the city with brooms and barrels on wheels, make the big bags of old clothing invisible, too.

And once invisible, the bags of clothing, like the invisible men who are gone by afternoon, are forgotten, unless your wife threw away your favourite frayed shirt.

In Jerusalem, most of the restaurants close for the holiday, because it's so complicated to go kosher for Pesach and satisfy the rabbinate. But in Tel Aviv a lot of restaurant owners never set out to satisfy the rabbinate.

That kind of common sense is what Tel Aviv sometimes can be all about, and is very different from life up there on the hill, where there are so many different kinds of Jewish people and Arab people and others that it's sometimes impossible to find any sense that is common to them all.

Making seder in Tel Aviv is opening the windows to summer, which is only a few blocks away from anywhere in the city.

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THE JERUSALEM RUBIN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE

The Concert dedicated to the Academy's Friends from Holland, which was to have taken place today, April 12, has been postponed until Wednesday, April 29, at 8:30 p.m.

Dan Region Association of Towns (Sanitation and Solid Waste Disposal)
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A. Kremer
Chairman
Association Council

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Tel Aviv: 2 performances: Saturday evening, April 18, 1987, Beit Harofe (near Mifal Hapays), 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, Beit Harishonim, 15 Brenner St., matinee 5 p.m.
Tickets: Rococo, 93 Dizengoff St., Kassel, Hadran, Kanaf

Haifa: 2 performances: Friday, April 17, Rothschild Carmel, 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, Beitinu, 7 p.m. Tickets: Nova agency, 32-34 Herzl St., Tel. 665272.

Nahariya: Sunday, April 19, Beit Eilat "Zavta", 8:30 p.m. Tickets: Sherut David

Netanya: Monday, April 20, WIZO hall, 8 p.m. Tickets: Signal

Ramat Gan: Monday, April 27, Beit Habistadim, 6 Kunitz, 8 p.m. Tickets: Secretariat

Kiryat Bialik: Friday, May 1, Beit Katz, 8 p.m. Tickets: Secretariat

Impressario: D. Berger

NEW STAMPS

Day of Issue: 16.4.87

Souvenir Sheet National Stamp Exhibition
"HAIFA 87"

The Souvenir Sheet will be on sale (price NIS. 4.) - from the special Post Office branch at the Exhibition, from the day of issue until the last day of the Exhibition, as long as stocks last.

For the convenience of collectors, the Souvenir Sheet (mini) will also be on sale - on the day of issue only - stocks permitting, at Philatelic Service Counters, Post Offices where Philatelic material is sold and at the Postal Agency, 37 Sederot Ha-Nasi, Haifa.

There is no First Day Cover with the Souvenir Sheet.

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The Special Post Office Branch at the Exhibition will be open as follows:
Opening Day - Thursday 16th April - 1 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Friday 17th April - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday 18th April - End of Sabbath - 9:30 p.m.
Sunday 19th April - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monday 20th April - End of Festival - 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday 21st April
& Wednesday 22nd April - 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Closing Day - Thursday 23rd April - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Buses:
From Haifa Bus Station (Bat Galim Railway Station): Nos 24 & 28
From Ha-Nevim St.: Nos 23 & 23a
And from Qiryat Sprincac No. 31

Stamps with tabs and complete sheets will be on sale as long as stocks permit at Philatelic Service sales counters and at the Postal Agency, 37 Sederot Ha-Nasi, Haifa until 15.5.87.

Post Office Authority Philatelic Services

Solel Boneh source says

'Debts woes were misreported'

By KEN SCHACHTER
For The Jerusalem Post
TEL AVIV. — A source close to negotiations aimed at rescuing building giant Solel Boneh from financial collapse has dismissed as severely distorted a published account of a meeting at which the company's future was discussed.

The source, who was present at the management meeting of Solel Boneh's holding company, Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, denied a report appearing in the press Wednesday that the Histadrut would be forced to seek \$25 million in additional government aid for the ailing builder.

"This wasn't said," the source maintained. "What was said was that Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, as the holding company, would do the job of finding \$25 million. No word was said about the government."

Hevrat Ha'Ovdim previously had acknowledged that such a sum would be needed to finance the severance payments of 1,500 workers due to be laid off.

Referring to reports that alleged Solel Boneh had spent \$60m. of \$80m. in restructured loans on severance pay and salary increases, the source said, "This is no secret. There is no news here."

The source also denied a quotation attributed to Solel Boneh managing director Ehud Shilo that the company still owes \$400m.

"He didn't say anything about Solel Boneh still owing \$400m., the source said. "The Solel Boneh \$400m. debt is a lie. It was said at the meeting that Solel Boneh started with \$400m. in debt last year. That's the point when the recovery plan started."

On Monday, it was announced that Solel Boneh would be merged with the Shikun Ovdim housing company which was a way of enhancing the ailing builder's long-term prospects. Shikun Ovdim, like Solel Boneh and Bank Hapoalim, a Hevrat Ha'Ovdim company affiliated with the Histadrut, initiates building projects, while

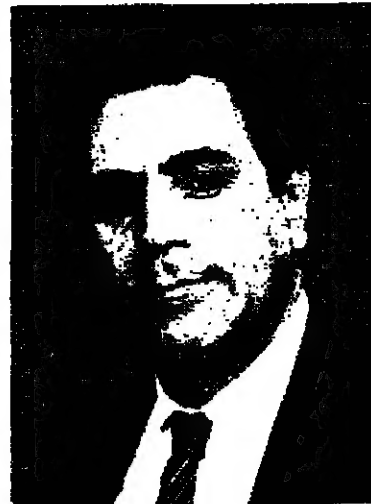
Solel Boneh does the actual construction. Rafi Edri, Shikun Ovdim chairman, was named chairman of the combined company and Shilo was appointed managing director.

While the source took exception to much of yesterday's press reports, which were ostensibly based on a transcript, the source acknowledged that other parts were accurate.

For example, the source said, Bank Hapoalim's chairman, Elton Berglas, did say that he feared Bank Leumi would not join a revised agreement to bail out the new combined company of Solel Boneh and Shikun Ovdim. The two banks are Solel Boneh's main creditors.

The source also declined to address a report on Solel Boneh's continuing financial hemorrhaging, put at \$2m. to \$3m. monthly.

As part of the five-year rescue plan, Solel Boneh already has sold \$120m. in assets and negotiated government guarantees on \$80m. in bank loans.



Moriah's Haim Haviv.
(American Studio)



First International's Moshe Koren.
(Na'or/Rehav)

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

Moriah executive heads hoteliers association

The manager of the Moriah Plaza Hotel in Tel Aviv, HAIM HAVIV, has been elected chairman of Israel Hotel Managers Association, in the group's annual elections last week. The association, which was founded in 1973, has 120 members.

MOTI GAZ has been appointed managing director of Pecker Precision Steel Ltd. of Kfar Saba, a subsidiary of Pecker Steel Ltd.

Gaz, 35, is a graduate of Tel Aviv University in industrial engineering and management and holds a second degree in business management. He joined Pecker in 1984 and previously worked as sales manager.

Mizrahi Investment Co., has named eight directors to the board of Amida Management Co., the company that oversees United Mizrahi Bank's 11 pension funds.

Among them are two outside directors, MEIR UNGER, a senior lecturer at Bar Ilan University, and attorney MEIR KATZ.

The other six are: YITZHAK DOHAN, ELIAHU UNGER and HANCHO ROSENBLUM, all Mizrahi assistant general managers; YERAAH NISSAM, a Mizrahi deputy manager general; ALEXANDER GOLDENBERG, business manager of the Mizrahi pension funds; and YOSEF KENIGSBACH, manager of the bank's Hadar Dafna branch.

The Israel International Freight Forwarders Association has appointed AMITAI BEN-AVIV director general. Ben-Avivi, who was the director general of the Tzior Co. replaces SHLOMO SHARON.

The Gemological Institute for Precious Stones Ltd., a non-profit

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY/ Paul Bolding

Turkey's troubles hurt bid to join EC

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has been getting some bad news about the state of Turkey's economy as he prepares to apply for full membership of the European Community.

At the same time, he faces calls from some of his party colleagues for pre-election measures which could make things worse before they get better.

Foreign debts reached a record \$31.4 billion last year, up from \$25.4b. in 1985. Some \$5.5b. will fall due this year, and future repayments will go up before they start going down.

The annual inflation rate hovers stubbornly around 30 per cent, exports are stagnating and economists say last year's high economic growth rate of 8 per cent reflects imbalances and poor management in the domestic economy. And despite the 8 per cent growth in gross national product in real terms per capita income remains low at just over \$1,000, compared with \$3,000 for the poorest EC member, Portugal.

Ozal must overcome great reservations inside the EC about Turkey's admission. It is a poor country and likely net beneficiary from EC funds at a time when the community is still adjusting to Spanish and Portuguese membership.

Ozal says he will apply for membership this year. Diplomats expect the move in the next few weeks and certainly before the end of June when Belgium, regarded as relatively sympathetic, gives up the rotating EC presidency.

Meanwhile, the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet reported last week that Ozal was under conflicting pressures within his conservative Motherland Party on how to manage the economy ahead of a general election due by November 1988 at the latest.

Economy managers are urging continued austerity, lower deficits and careful management of foreign

debt repayments. But the party organization wants more public spending, implying more borrowing and higher deficits, to ensure victory at the polls. Cumhuriyet said Ozal, architect of a restructuring programme which began in 1980, was expected to seek a middle way.

"Abandoning the 1980 measures would mean economic suicide, though perhaps political survival. But then Turkey would find itself in the grip of a vicious circle from which it would be difficult to extricate itself," the newspaper said.

The current account balance of payments deficit rose to \$1.5b. last year from just over \$1b. in 1985, and a report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development last month predicted it would be not significantly lower this year at around \$1.3b. The report noted that banks preferred to make short-term loans to Turkey, a sign of limited confidence, and that much of the lending was inspired by relatively large flows from official sources like the World Bank.

"These will probably remain relevant features of Turkish access to foreign capital markets so long as there remains a significant current account deficit and high debt amortisation payments," it said.

Western diplomats monitoring the economy say confidence in Turkey remains high, but much depends for the future on what happens to the balance of payments and to Ozal's resolve against electoral pressures.

Ozal has already announced plans to reform agriculture. Although details are still awaited, diplomats say this probably means extra spending on price support and credit relief for farmers, useful for pulling in rural votes.

The Economic Development Foundation, a semi-state body promoting Turkish membership in the EC, said in a report that Turkey's economy was suited for the community and was little different from those of Spain and Portugal, which joined last year.

"Turkish industry is in a state of rapid growth and, with its great dynamism, is powerful enough to close much of the gap between itself and the community by the year 2000," it said. (Reuters)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Meir Ezra, Mehadrin offers over subscribed

Last week's tender offers for shares and options by Mehadrin Ltd. and Meir Ezra and Son Co. were both substantially oversubscribed at prices well above the minimums set by the companies.

An offer by Meir Ezra for 120,000 units, comprising 300 million shares and 120 million options, won 1,685 orders for 446,424 units in a Tuesday tender, the company said. The cut-off price for a successful bid was fixed at NIS 37 per unit, NIS 9 above the minimum established by the company prior to the offering.

Meir Ezra said 453 of the orders — a total of 144,346 units — were for the cut-off price or above.

Mehadrin's Wednesday tender, for 33,600 units of two shares and one option each, attracted 1,756 orders for 144,072 units. The company said the cut-off price for a successful order was fixed at NIS 18b., nearly NIS 30 above the minimum. Some 299 orders for 31,878 units were at or above the cut-off.

All told, Mehadrin's tender earned the company NIS 6.5 million.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK said last week that the offer to its staff of improved early retirement terms,

made during February and March, netted 500 positive responses. As a result, the bank's work-force has been cut by 9 per cent, from about 5,700 to 5,200. The reductions have enabled Discount to substantially meet its target for 1987 under the Bank of Israel programme to reduce the size of the banking system. However, a few Discount branches are likely to be closed in the course of the year.

EI Al's AMOS AMIR adds the post of vice president of operations to his job as senior vice president, following the resignation of YEHEZKEL SOMEKH last week. Somekh, who joined EI Al 15 years ago after a career in the IDF, had told manage-

ment earlier that he had planned to retire when he reached 60.

ARAB-ISRAEL BANK, a subsidiary of Bank Leumi, reported a sharply reduced consolidated net profit of NIS 1.9 million for 1986. In the previous year the net profit totalled NIS 3.4m.

The bank's balance increased by 22 per cent to NIS 194m., while clients' deposits, rose by 9 per cent to NIS 114.4m. Its own capital rose from NIS 8.5m. to NIS 10.4m. during the year, and the profit on it amounted to 22 per cent.

The bank, which has 30 branches in the Arab towns and villages in the north, attributed the lower gains to a drop in margins and the freezing of the fees it collects.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES April 11, 1987

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.6796
GERMANY	MARK	1.6071
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.6001
FRANCE	FRANC	2.2650
JAPAN	YEN	1.1211
HOLLAND	FLORIN	0.7818
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1.0649
SWEDEN	KRONA	0.2531
NORWAY	KRONE	0.2346
DENMARK	KRONE	0.2340
FINLAND	MARK	0.3618
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.2290
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1.1450
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	0.7912
BELGIUM	FRANC	0.4280
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	1.2593
ITALY	LIRA	1.2367
JORDAN	DINAR	4.6592
EGYPT	POUND	0.7605



CROSSWORD

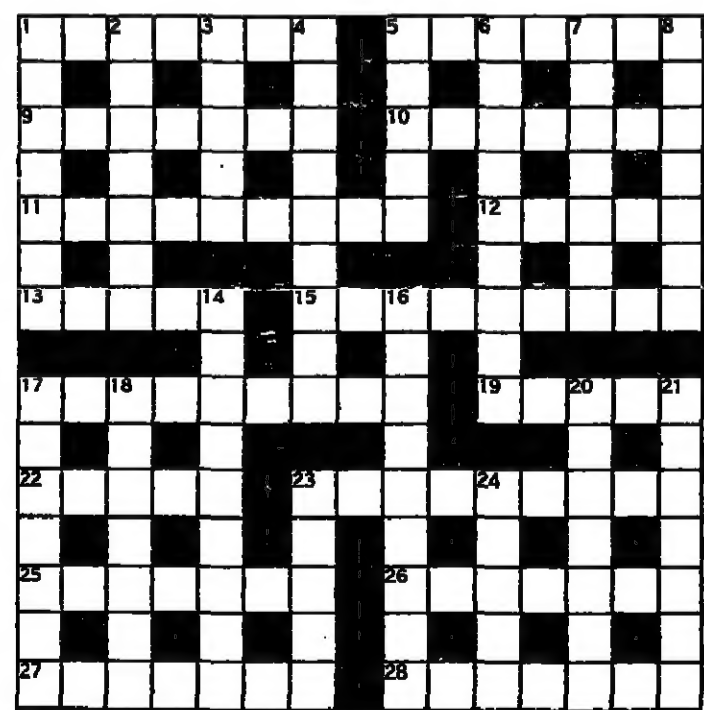
ACROSS

- 1 Poison scare in new development (7)
- 5 The bouncer going into action falls (7)
- 9 Pressed for discharge (7)
- 10 Claim against minister (7)
- 11 Where people may eat tea, if care is taken (9)
- 12 Sound asleep (5)
- 13 Bondsman turning in before being seen out (5)
- 15 Finds the records about finished (9)
- 17 Making up (9)
- 19 Some wines (terrible ones) contain such a compound (5)

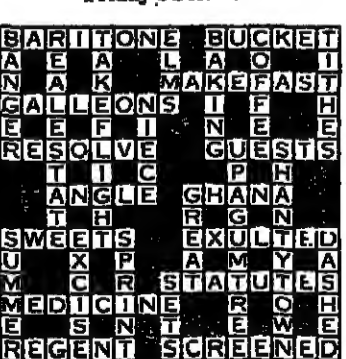
- 23 Strict about mouth-end recess (5)
- 24 The thief, it's clear, isn't reformable (9)
- 25 High spot for a woman — an opportunity to relax (7)
- 26 Game little creature (7)
- 27 A supporter of the board (7)
- 28 Hero's love for this retiring leftist (7)

DOWN

- 1 The A? (7)
- 2 Foreign coppers assume disagreement to increase resistance (7)
- 3 Dark grotesque thing (5)



Friday's Solutions



QUICK SOLUTION

Across: 1. Ticks off; 5. Number; 8. Napoleon; 9. Embraced; 11. Tureens; 12. Spills; 15. Loose; 16. Slang; 17. Porter; 20. Trotted; 22. Porthole; 25. Spillpipe; 24. Divers; 26. Skillet.

Down: 1. Threat; 2. Cat-burglar; 3. Sex anemone; 4. Find; 5. Naples; 6. Malice; 7. Rinses; 10. Ensnare; 13. Piano stool; 14. Lighthouse; 16. Set; 17. Passed; 18. Temple; 19. Reises; 21. Dreams; 22. Pess.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Server
- 4 Support
- 9 Childhood
- 10 Advance
- 11 Den
- 12 Soapy rain
- 13 Pact
- 14 Artists' stands
- 15 Living
- 17 Ball-game
- 19 Raised
- 20 Cross
- 22 Very pale
- 23 Silver
- 24 Encomium
- 25 Eatable

DOWN

- 1 Note-case
- 3 Genuinely
- 4 Seating
- 5 Telephone
- 6 Litter
- 7 Aim
- 8 Ardour
- 11 Smart
- 12 Seized
- 15 Infuriate
- 16 Shoddy
- 17 Dozen
- 18 Grass-cutter
- 21 Extinct bird
- 22 Sparkling wine

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The World Zionist Organization **The Jewish Agency for Israel**

Office of the Spokesman

Please note that all offices of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization throughout the country will operate in a reduced pattern during the intermediate days of Pesach (Tuesday, April 15 through Sunday, April 19), because of a coordinated staff vacation.

Each office will maintain a limited staff to handle emergencies. The offices will be closed to the regular reception of the public. All other facilities of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization will operate as usual.

WORLD BANK PUBLICATIONS

Dollar GNP's of the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe

Paul Marer
This book documents the findings of an important research project to assess alternative methods of computing the dollar GNP's and growth rates of centrally planned economies (CPEs). CPEs have not heretofore been adequately represented in international comparisons, especially in relation to dollar GNP's and growth rates, although these countries account for a significant share of the world's production.

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Focuses on the U.S.S.R., Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. 256 pages.

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The unprecedented growth in demand for transport and increases in the costs of energy and construction have exacerbated urban transport problems in the past decade. Such changes have prompted a fresh look at urban transport and its effects on the economic efficiency of cities and the well-being of urban residents. This study sets out the current views of the World Bank on urban transport. 80 pages.

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edited by Michael M. Cernia
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To the brink and beyond

THE ESCALATING rhetoric over prospects of an international Middle East peace conference reached a new peak last Thursday with Prime Minister Shamir's unprecedented attack against Vice Premier Peres's persistent efforts to bring about direct peace talks under the umbrella of such a conference. Terming the idea "monstrous and insane," Mr. Shamir held that the Labour Party chairman could have conceived it only in a nightmare of despair.

Since, according to Mr. Shamir, such a move must inevitably heap national calamity on Israel, forcing a peace of surrender and going to Canossa, Mr. Peres should put the issue before the people and let them decide. Meanwhile, the Likud would stand on guard, rescuing the nation from the Labour Alignment's perilous designs that must lead to the loss of Israel's security and independence.

Strong words indeed which surprised even people who normally support Mr. Shamir's policies. No wonder then that only 24 hours later the prime minister sought ways to step back from the brink and to cool the situation, professing that keeping the national unity government intact was still his major aim.

In a political climate where rhetoric has long ceased to be a credible currency and where the trading of personal insults among party leaders of the first rank has become the order of the day, Mr. Shamir's repeated breathing hot and cold should perhaps not have come as a total surprise. But as the issue in question concerns a matter of the highest national priority, the government's constant speaking in two diametrically opposed voices on Israel's peace efforts confuses Israel's friends abroad and causes total political disarray at home.

Since Mr. Shamir's condition for keeping the Labour-Likud coalition together is that Mr. Peres desist from pursuing his peace efforts, it seems extremely difficult to find a common denominator on which this government could continue to function, even in its already grossly diminished governance. There could be a number of reasons for the prime minister's latest outburst which this time took the form of a most scathing political and personal attack against the person with whom he is supposed to share national leadership.

Having come out recently as the undisputed chairman of Herut, the main component of the Likud, Mr. Shamir might have wanted to prove that he remains undeterred in his nationalist rhetoric and that his previous attacks against Mr. Peres's peace diplomacy had nothing to do with internal Herut rivalries. Or, perhaps, the prime minister is becoming increasingly concerned lest Mr. Peres might succeed in putting together a peace conference on terms that even a government with the Likud might find difficult to reject. In this case, Mr. Shamir might be toying with the idea of wanting to bring about early elections before the peace conference formula is ripe for a clear-cut decision by the electorate, while putting the onus for breaking up the government on the Labour Alignment.

Mr. Peres's initially restrained response to Mr. Shamir's open challenge seems therefore a wise move. Israel's peace efforts would be badly served by a premature national debate at a time when there are still no viable negotiating partners on the Jordanian-Palestinian side. For the idea of an international conference *per se* is hardly a suitable election slogan that could inspire the majority of the people.

The present government may therefore be doomed to continue muddling through between two opposed poles, as it has done hitherto. The Labour Alignment must be ready to present a coherent alternative peace policy that can confront the nationalist camp which actually does not wish to become engaged in any sort of real peace negotiations - with or without an international conference - before it goes to the polls.

Brinkmanship is the art of not stepping over the brink, at least not prematurely.

IT IS A great pity that, at this moment, when there is at least a glimmer of hope for the first reform of the electoral system in almost 40 years, we find knowledgeable commentators like Yosef Goell and Yitzhak Heimowitz (*The Jerusalem Post*, March 23) turning up their noses at the present proposal, exaggerating its shortcomings, and suggesting alternatives that will lead nowhere.

The Labour Party has been committed to electoral reform since 1954, when David Ben-Gurion pushed for the adoption of the single-member constituency method. The basic reason why repeated Labour initiatives for reform have been unsuccessful is that the electorate has never given a majority to parties which could be relied on to support the change.

In view of the opposition to the original proposal, Labour suggested in 1969 a compromise method, combining some of the merits of both the existing proportional representation system and that in force in Britain and the United States.

The Liberals backed the proposal in principle, and on two occasions - in 1972 and 1976 - a reform bill proposed by Gad Ya'acobi on behalf of the Labour Party got the required 61 votes. On each occasion, however, the proposed legislation got bogged down in committee, and the elections came (in 1973 and 1977) before much progress could be made.

The advent in 1977 of the later Professor Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change with 15 seats and a pivotal position in the Knesset stirred up new hope, since it had presented electoral reform as a central plank in its programme. But Professor Yavin refused to support a Labour initiative, preferring to pursue the will of the wisp of agreement within Menachem Begin's coalition government.

IT IS misleading, therefore, to talk of a "Catch-22 situation" of to blame

THE KNESSET law committee has approved a bill that would divide Israel into either 16 or 20 districts for electing 80 of the 120 Knesset members. Four or five MKs would be chosen in each district by proportional representation, and the remaining 40 would be chosen, as at present, from the national constituency or party list.

Although local constituency elections may be desirable in theory, this will in no way eliminate the root cause of Israel's political malaise, namely, coalition cabinet government. Indeed, such elections at this particular juncture of Israel's rebirth would be a mischievous palliative, doing more harm than good.

Admittedly, constituency elections, unlike the present system of party lists, would give the voter a more direct choice of the persons he wants to represent him; and of course the candidates chosen would in theory be accountable to their constituency. This sort of electoral reform has a strong democratic appeal. But let us turn from theory to political reality and consider the consequences.

Knesset members chosen by constituencies will not be as independent of party dictates as some hope or expect. In the first place, they will be the nominees of their party. Second, they will still be largely dependent on their national party for financial, parliamentary, and logistical support.

Israel is not the United States. There, economic pluralism - a precondition of political democracy - enables a congressman to establish a power base in his home constituency. This allows him to take a more or less independent stand on many public issues. I say "more or less" because even American legislators tend to vote the party line. This will

THE ELECTORAL REFORM BILL: TWO VIEWS

Reasonable compromise

Misha Louvish

Knesset members for the lack of progress towards a change in the system. Reform has been consistently supported by Labour, ratified by party conference decisions, and backed by party discipline.

It is also supported by Professor Amnon Rubinstein's Shinui, Shulamit Aloni's Citizens Rights Movement and Yigael Hurvitz's list, although these small parties would lose by reform. Both the Liberals and Herut have gone on record as favouring it in the past and, although it was not included in the Likud's election manifesto in 1984, their representatives voted for the Ya'acobi bill in committee.

Labour, (including Ezer Weizman's Yahad), the CRM, Shinui and Hurvitz have 47 seats between them. Allowing for a handful of absentees or abstainers on the Labour side, all that is needed for success is to get the support of half the Likud members - a far from impossible mission. So there is hope that the goal can be reached, especially if everyone who wants a change stops carping and lends a hand.

The critics denounce the present proposal, however, because it "combines all the drawbacks of both constituency and proportional elections," or that it will not achieve the results expected. Let us take a close look at the scheme and consider how it will work.

Under the present system, a Knesset member represents a party but not, officially, an area or district (although some members, like Jacques Amir or Meir Shitrit, are personally associated with specific localities). Under the Ya'acobi bill, 80 out of the 120 members would represent defined areas, and in each area any elector would have the choice of four

members whom he could approach with his grievance. Perhaps this is not so good as having a single member responsible to all his constituents, but it is much better than having to choose from among 120 members, none of whom is formally responsible to any particular part of the electorate.

It must be remembered that this is a small country and each of the four-member constituencies would cover a population of about 200,000. Jerusalem, for example, would probably be divided into two areas, north and south. It would be quite easy for each member to hold a "surgery" once a week or so, to which his constituents could come to make their pleas.

It is true, as argued, that the local party organs will generally choose the candidates, but this is equally true in single-member constituencies. Most of the candidates, under any system, are chosen, in effect, by the politically active minority.

In Britain, the central offices of the parties have a considerable influence in the choice of candidates, and the voters are usually influenced primarily by political allegiances, although the personal qualities of the local candidates play some part in determining the result.

In this respect, it makes little difference whether one or four candidates have to be elected in a particular area. Under the proposed system, the party organizations would probably take pains to choose attractive candidates, who could win more of the floating vote.

For the same reason, each party

might try to include in its "quarter" people with more specific local appeal. In south Jerusalem, for example, a list might feature someone from the Katamon-Baka-German Colony area, another from Kiryat Yovel or Kiryat Menahem, and so forth.

WHILE THERE is no escaping the influence of party organizations, any system should provide a safety valve for personal initiative by independent candidates. Proportional representation gives the most opportunity for this kind of candidature, since the maverick may scrape together enough votes from all over the country.

Opinions on such possibilities will vary according to one's views on the merits of the candidate concerned. The great majority, for instance, would welcome the disappearance of such phenomena as Flatto-Sharon or Meir Kabane. Even those who disagree with Shulamit Aloni's opinions and dislike her style, however, may agree that it was a good thing that she was able to appeal directly to the electorate in 1973 when she was pushed off the Labour list.

Under the Labour proposal, the independent candidate might be able to find a suitable constituency and compete against the party machine. It would be easier, however, than in a single-member constituency, since he would only have to win a quarter of the vote (or even less) instead of 50 per cent. He might, moreover, win one of the 40 seats to be filled by the countrywide poll.

The present proposal minimizes one of the outstanding drawbacks of our proportional representation sys-

tem while avoiding the corresponding fault of the single-member constituency method. By facilitating fusion of parties and the emergence of small factions, our present system makes it almost impossible for any party to win an overall absolute majority and form a strong, stable government as in the United Kingdom. Under the British system, on the other hand, if, as has been happening there in recent years, there are more than two parties, the smallest is grossly under-represented.

The provision, in the Ya'acobi bill, for the election of one-third of the members by proportional representation helps to prevent such a distortion of the popular will while discouraging small parties. At the same time, it provides a "safety valve" for the independent candidate in exceptional cases, thus limiting the power of the party machines.

What we have to remember is that any system has faults as well as merits, because the demands we make are not completely compatible. We want strong, stable governments, which will give priority to national over sectional interests. Naturally, such governments will impose strong party discipline. But then we don't want our representatives to be mere puppets dancing to the tune of party headquarters, and we would like them to be responsive to the needs and interests of their constituents.

There are no perfect solutions to political problems. All we can expect is a reasonable compromise, which will do the most good and also do the least possible harm. Not only is the Ya'acobi bill the most practical proposal on the public agenda because it has wide support and has already met two crucial challenges; it is also a reasonable compromise which may break the log-jam that has held up electoral reform for over three decades.

The author is a Jerusalem-based writer and translator.

More harm than good

Paul Eidelberg

certainly be the case in Israel where party discipline can more readily be enforced. The gain in independence will be minimal.

WITHOUT dwelling on the nasty problem of drawing up the boundaries and thereby determining the demographic and ideological complexion of each constituency, this problem is bound to create political and even sectarian strife. Such conflict will not be obviated by involving Supreme Court judges in determining electoral districts. Besides, it would be a great mistake for judges to enter that political thicket, which would only tarnish their reputation as jurists.

Consider, too, how constituency elections will affect intra-party rivalries. Presumably, major party leaders will not stand for election. They will remain safely ensconced atop the party lists. Will this not diminish their status *vis-a-vis* a popularly elected party colleague or rival?

Of course, party leaders may choose to run for election in a "safe" district. Whatever the case, the status of party-selected Knesset members will differ from that of members elected by popular constituencies. This could lead to parliamentary fissures in the Labour and Likud parties. (Some may deem this a good thing if, contrary to what was said above, it rendered the popularity elected members of the Knesset more independent.)

Mention should also be made of the ulterior motives of some advocates of constituency elections. Some hope this reform will diminish

the number of small parties in the Knesset, especially the religious parties. But the present representation of the religious parties serves to moderate not only the demands of their own constituents but pernicious hostilities between the two major parties, both of which vie for religious support. If the religious parties are not proportionately represented in the Knesset, we can expect greater polarization in Israel, and not only between religionists and secularists.

It should also be borne in mind that most olim now are religious Jews. Also, no one should underestimate the contribution of religious Jews to Israel's economic growth. If the electoral system is changed to their disadvantage, there is going to be a greater exodus of Jews, money and talent from Israel, to say the least.

IT IS remarkable that those most enamoured of pluralism in Israel are the most ardent advocates of minimizing pluralism in the Knesset. Yet that is precisely where pluralism belongs. The present system of proportional representation may not lead to efficient government; it may not well serve the interests of illiberal majoritarians; but it is nothing if not democratic. The system breaks down only because the pluralism in the legislature is allowed to invade and eviscerate the executive, i.e., the cabinet.

The legislature is the place for

representing the diverse views and interests of the nation. Such is Israel's pluralistic character today that the acts of the Knesset will not be wise - they will not promote distributive justice and domestic tranquility - unless the nation's diverse views and interests are well represented and vigorously argued. Only then may the people, by means of truly liberal media, see and weigh the immediate and long-range consequences of any law or government policy.

But pluralism alone is not sufficient. In fact, no nation can endure unless its members have something in common more important than their differences. Unconstrained pluralism - pluralism in the absence of shared ends and values - is self-defeating. A nation is such only if its members possess a sense of national unity or solidarity, which can only be derived from its heritage. And so, while the Knesset should be that branch of government which emphasizes pluralism, another branch of government should emphasize and symbolize national unity. Urgently needed - and it will come sooner or later - is a unitary executive.

ONLY A unitary executive can overcome the divisiveness, the ineptitude and irresponsibility of coalition cabinet government on the one hand, and restore national solidarity and a due sense of national honour on the other. Here are some of the salient aspects of the proposed presidential form of government:

The president should be elected separately in a national election. He

should be the direct choice of the people, not of a party.

He should have a fixed, four-year term of office coinciding with a four-year term for the Knesset. This would preclude the president from dissolving the Knesset and, conversely, the Knesset from overturning the government by a vote of no-confidence.

The president should also be eligible for re-election in order to attract men of vision and facilitate the formulation and execution of comprehensive and long-range national policies. Consistent therewith, the president would appoint, with the advice and consent of the Knesset, the members of the cabinet.

Now we come to the knotty but not intractable problem of *nominations*. Without any change in the system of proportional representation in the Knesset, each party or party-bloc having a prescribed minimum number of parliamentary seats - say 10 - would nominate a candidate for the presidency some time prior to the scheduled quadrennial elections. The names of the candidates would be placed on a national ballot.

If any candidate receives a majority of the votes cast by the electorate, he of course would be president. If no one receives a majority, a run-off election would follow.

The above proposal would not only promote cabinet solidarity and responsibility, but competency and civility. Moreover, such a cabinet, working under presidential leadership, would diminish dangerous divisions in the country - divisions exploited by Israel's enemies, while undermining the confidence of Israel's friends.

The writer is professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University.

POSTSCRIPTS

P.S. TELEVISION viewers in the Rehovot district of southern China are still recovering from watching 20 minutes of a pornographic film instead of their mid-day news, a Canton newspaper reports.

Yancheng Daily said the pornographic interlude in Rehovot, near Canton, was the fault of two men who were using the local television station to screen and copy a blue-

movie video cassette. Such material is banned in China. Feng Baipeng, 32, and a friend, Qiu Chaoxiang, were watching the video in a quiet room of the local television station completely unaware that it was going out on the air at the same time, the newspaper said.

Officials at the district police station were alerted by a flood of indignant phone calls, *Yancheng Daily* said.

SOVIET JEWS

(Continued from Page One)

saw some initial evidence of an easing of the restrictions and this continued in March, when the flow of emigrants actually began to increase significantly. Nearly 450 Soviet Jews were permitted to leave in March, the highest monthly total in many years.

The U.S. officials noted that all of this was taking place before the Bronfman-Abram mission to Moscow.

The Soviet commitment, the Americans said, involved only 11,000 refugees whose names were submitted on a list by Secretary Shultz to the Soviets last year. There have been no Soviet promises about the other Jews who are thought to be anxious to leave.

U.S. officials said that almost all of those Jews permitted to leave in March and so far in April have come from the refugee list submitted by Shultz. The secretary had earlier said that he obtained the list from Abram and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Israeli officials and American Jewish activists insist that another

400,000 Jews have already expressed an interest in emigrating.

Meanwhile in Moscow, longtime refugee Vladimir Slepak said he and his wife were bundled into a car by police yesterday after they tried to resume a demonstration calling on the government to grant them exit visas.

Slepak, 59, told the Associated Press by telephone that both he and his wife, Maria, 60, had been pushed by police during the morning fracas but were unharmed. But he said that a woman who joined the protest had her thumb twisted and dislocated and had to be hospitalized.

The Slepaks began staging silent protests last Tuesday in front of the building that houses the government of the Russian Republic. Yesterday a police major told them they could not demonstrate because a voluntary cleanup was under way. They were then seized by uniformed militiamen, put inside a police jeep and driven home, where a guard was posted at their apartment door to prevent them from leaving, Slepak said.

READERS' LETTERS

CATHOLIC HELP FOR JEWISH CEMETERY

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I was particularly interested in Ya'acov Friedler's story (March 15) of the 400-year old Jewish cemetery near Niederbreisig on the Rhine, as my paternal grandparents are buried in the "new" cemetery, established some 120 years ago. At the turn of the century my father's family was the only Jewish one in that

JEWISH CEMETERY

village, now known as Bad Breisig. The new cemetery was not vandalized in the Nazi era. It is gratifying that the Catholic Church, or rather the local bishop, is active in preserving the old cemetery, threatened by a land-developer.

Jerusalem.

MICHAEL J. BERGER

EXCELLENT COVERAGE

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I want to express my appreciation of Daniel Gavron's excellent coverage of the symposium on Ya'acov Oved's important new book *Two hundred years of American Communism* (March 20). Since he is not a member of a kibbutz or other community, it is amazing with what profound understanding and sensitivity Gavron writes on communal affairs, both in his intelligent straight reporting and in his human and sociological insight in analyzing

problems and suggesting his own conclusions.

YOEL DAROM

Kfar Menahem

FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - As I understand it, a group of Israelis have been put on trial for participating in a dialogue in a search of peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli problems.

As an American Jewess, I am shocked at the thought that people should not be permitted to exchange ideas with one another. This is not reasonable in this day and age. You should change your law and free prisoners of such a law against the free exchange of ideas.

ELIZABETH SHUVAL

New York

TV COMEDIES

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I refer to Philip Gillon's *Television of March 27*, "The repulsive British snigger."

I am an American (New York) living in Israel 17 years and always found it difficult to understand the British sense of humour. However, I feel *Are you being served?* is the most entertaining comedy series (even though British) I have seen on Israeli TV in a long time. My husband (Israeli) and our family actually look forward to seeing it every Tuesday night.

HELEN RABIA

Ramat Gan

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HERZLIYA, Daniel Hotel Auditorium
April 22, 8.30 p.m.
KFAZ BILMA, Kfar Blum House
April 24, 8.30 p.m.
CARMIEL, Hechal Hatzabot
April 27, 8.30 p.m.
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